

**MISSION
STATEMENT**

Adult services seeks to maximize the independent functioning of adults and the independent control of adults over their own lives; to protect vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and to advocate for the aged and disabled.

Principles

In carrying out this mission, certain operating principles are to be considered. These are:

- Adults have a right to make their own decisions. This includes:
 - Decisions as to whether they want service, what services or how much and from whom,
 - Decisions as to where they live, and
 - Decisions to determine a plan of service.
- Services must recognize the role of the family. Family involvement should be supported by:
 - Seeking out the family,
 - Involving them in service planning, and
 - Directing services and resources toward the family in their role as caregiver.

If the interest of the family and the adult compete, the adult's interest is primary.

- Services should be the least intrusive, least disruptive and least restrictive.
- Services should be part of a coordinated network of community-based services, using all appropriate existing community services and identifying the need for developing additional services.
- In providing services to adults, the full range of social work skills focused on person centered planning should be used to inform clients of services and alternatives available and the impact of decisions to assure informed choices. Workers should consider strength based solution focused techniques.

Program Goals

Assist adults and their families in selecting the most appropriate and least restrictive care and:

- Assist adults to continue or resume living independently by arranging for in-home services, e.g., Home Help.
- Assist adults and their families in locating and arranging for out-of-home care.

For adults living independently, help arrange services to ensure basic well-being and safety--including medical, home help, and other social, educational or vocational services.

For adults in out-of-home care, maximize independent functioning by arranging medical, mental health, social, educational or vocational services; facilitate movement to an independent living arrangement, if appropriate, or assist in maintaining the adult in out-of-home care.

Provide immediate investigation and assessment of situations referred to the department when an adult is suspected of needing protection.

For those found to be in need of protection, provide services to assist the adult in achieving a safe and stable status, including using legal intervention, where required, in the least intrusive or restrictive manner.

Death Reporting Process

All deaths in open Adult Protective Services (APS) cases and the deaths in Home Help cases which meet the definition of required reporting as outlined in the Services Requirements Manual must be reported. See SRM 173 for complete reporting instructions.

Deaths in Adult Foster Care facilities must be reported to the Department of Human Services, Office of Children and Adult Licensing. The investigation of those deaths should be coordinated with APS and the Office of Children and Adult Licensing.